

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA

December 9, 2003

During the November 18, 2003 Board meeting, we heard testimony from a foster parent regarding the Department of Children and Family Services' (DCFS) denial of her home study. After hearing her testimony, it became apparent that existing DCFS' policy did not require social workers to clearly explain the reasons for denial or give the foster parent an opportunity to rebut and/or provide additional information to remedy the situation. According to DCFS, while best practice suggests that staff should fully inform clients of reasons for denial and allow them to address any problems, current policy does not require such action. DCFS has reviewed its current practice and recommends changing existing policy. It is in the best interest of clients, children and the greater public to ensure that prospective parents are afforded every reasonable opportunity to seek adoption.

I, THEREFORE MOVE, that DCFS implement the policy change they have recommended requiring staff to fully inform clients of reasons for the denial of their home study and allow them an opportunity to discuss and/or provide additional information; inform DCFS employees in writing of this new policy and ensure they receive appropriate training; inform the Courts of this new policy; and request DCFS to report back within two weeks on the status of the implementation of this new policy and employee training.

MOTION

Molina	_____
Burke	_____
Yaroslavsky	_____
Antonovich	_____
Knabe	_____